

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 19 November 1992

The week in statistics ...

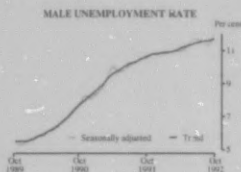
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Unemployment rate rising again

The provisional trend unemployment rate rose to 11.1 per cent in October 1992 after two months at 11.0 per cent. While the underlying trend in employment continued to rise, the rate of increase slowed. Trend estimates of full-time unemployment remained relatively flat while the trend estimate of the labour force participation rate was unchanged.

Employment

The October 1992 seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons was 7,713,500, an increase of 25,800 since September 1992. Full-time employment fell slightly to 5,859,000 with little change in the number of males or females employed full time. Part-time employment rose by 28,000 to 1,854,500. Males and females employed part time rose in October, by 12,000 and 16,000 respectively.



LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Un- employed	Unemploy- ment rate	Participa- tion rate
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total			
	— '000 —					
1992						
May	5,863.7	1,799.2	7,663.0	905.9	10.6	62.7
June	5,856.8	1,834.4	7,691.1	963.4	11.1	63.2
July	5,891.9	1,857.3	7,749.2	959.6	11.0	63.5
August	5,861.6	1,870.0	7,731.6	947.5	10.9	63.2
September	5,861.2	1,826.5	7,687.7	927.7	10.8	62.7
October	5,859.0	1,854.5	7,713.5	979.9	11.3	63.2



Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons for October 1992 rose by 52,200 to 979,900, the highest level recorded by the survey. For males, unemployment rose by 36,400 to 602,300, also the highest level recorded by the survey. Males seeking full-time work and part-time work both rose, by 22,600 and 13,800 respectively. Female unemployment rose by 15,800 to 377,500, with a rise of 13,500 in the number of females seeking full-time work being the main component. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October 1992 was 11.3 per cent, an increase of 0.5 percentage points compared with September 1992 and the highest rate recorded by the survey. For males, the unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage points to 11.9 per cent, also the highest rate recorded by the survey. For females, the rate rose by 0.4 percentage points to 10.4 per cent.

Participation rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate was 63.2 per cent, a rise of 0.5 percentage points compared with September 1992. For males, the rate rose by 0.6 percentage points to 74.6 per cent. For females, the rate rose by 0.4 percentage points to 52.1 per cent.

Average earnings figures flatten out

Preliminary estimates for August 1992 show small, not statistically significant decreases in average weekly earnings for full-time adults in the three months since May.

The compositional changes that have been taking place in the wage and salary earner segment of the labour force in previous quarters, producing upward movements in the series, appear to have stabilised.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, AUGUST 1992

	Average weekly earnings (\$)			Percentage change in 'Persons' from	
	Males	Females	Persons	May 1992	August 1991
Full-time adults					
Ordinary time	623.10	518.40	585.70	-0.3	3.2
Total	664.80	529.70	616.50	-0.2	3.3
All employees	598.40	397.20	504.30	0.0	3.1

Average weekly earnings statistics represent average gross (before tax) earnings of employees and do not relate to average award rates nor to the earnings of the 'average person'. Estimates of average weekly earnings are derived by dividing estimates of weekly total earnings by estimates of employment. Changes in the averages may be affected not only by changes in the level of earnings of employees but also by changes in the overall composition of the wage and salary earner segment of the labour force.

People using average weekly earnings data for contractual adjustment or related purposes should note that these estimates are preliminary.

For further information, order the publication *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia*, Preliminary (6301 0), or contact Errol Preston on (06) 252 6511.

Small increase in export prices

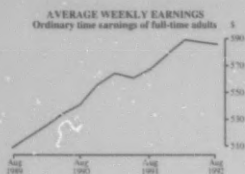
Export prices rose by 0.5 per cent between August and September 1992.

A general factor contributing to the increase was the fall in the value of the Australian dollar against the currencies of most of our major trading partners.

Price increases were recorded for about half of the items in the index. The main contributors to the increase were aluminium, petroleum products and coal.

These increases were partially offset by small price falls for about a third of the items in the index. The only significant decreases recorded were for wheat, wool and lead.

Continued ...



On an annual basis, export prices rose by 7.0 per cent between September 1991 and September 1992. This is the largest annual increase recorded since January 1990.

The wide range of price changes for different commodities is shown below.

EXPORT PRICES, SEPTEMBER 1992
Percentage change

Commodity	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Vegetable products	-1.9	20.1
Live animals and animal products	2.2	10.2
Base metals	0.6	9.3
Gold, diamonds and coin	0.9	8.7
Mineral products	1.3	7.2
Prepared food stuffs	1.4	5.1
Machinery and appliances	0.0	4.7
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	0.4	4.2
Wool and cotton fibres	-2.0	-0.9
Products of chemical and allied industries	0.8	-2.7
All exports	0.5	7.0

For further information, order the publication Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0), or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541.

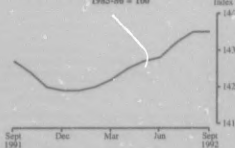
Building material prices stable

Prices of materials used in house building showed no change between August and September 1992, while prices of materials used in other forms of building decreased by 0.1 per cent.

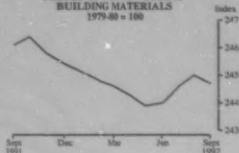
PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, SEPTEMBER 1992
Percentage change

City	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month previous year
Sydney	-0.1	0.8	-0.4	-0.9
Melbourne	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	-1.0
Brisbane	0.2	2.2	0.2	1.2
Adelaide	0.5	1.0	0.0	-1.7
Perth	-0.1	0.7	0.1	0.6
Hobart	0.1	2.0	-0.1	1.0
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.0	0.6	-0.1	-0.6
Darwin	— Not available —		0.1	1.1
Canberra	0.2	1.9	0.1	0.2

PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS
1985-86 = 100



PRICES OF NON-DWELLING
BUILDING MATERIALS
1979-80 = 100



The main price change was for ready mixed concrete which decreased for both types of building.

The September 1992 prices of materials used in house building were 0.6 per cent higher than in September 1991. Prices of materials used in other forms of building were 0.6 lower than in September 1991.

For further information, order the publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)* and *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities (6407.0)*, or contact Mark Dickson (06) 252 6198.

This week in brief ...

Foreign trade

Merchandise imports for September 1992 were \$5,181 million, an increase of \$659 million (15%) on August 1992, and also up \$962 million (23%) on September 1991.

The commodities recording the largest increases on the previous month were: non-road transport equipment, (mainly aircraft), up \$305 million (439%) to \$374 million; manufactured goods classified by material, up \$70 million (10%) to \$767 million; office machines (including computers), up \$58 million (19%) to \$363 million; telecommunication equipment, up \$48 million (27%) to \$224 million; petroleum, up \$44 million (15%) to \$332 million; and chemicals, up \$40 million (8%) to \$552 million.

Australia's major commodity imports for September 1992 and their principal sources were: aircraft and associated equipment (\$369 million): USA (96%); passenger motor vehicles (\$222 million): Japan (82%) and Germany (12%); crude petroleum oils (\$211 million): United Arab Emirates (45%), Papua New Guinea (22%), Indonesia (12%), and Saudi Arabia (10%); and computers (\$203 million): USA (38%), Japan (20%), Taiwan (13%) and Singapore (10%).

Source: *Foreign Trade, Australia: Merchandise Imports, September 1992 (5433.0)*.

Wine production

Total grapes crushed for 1991-92 increased by 17.4 per cent from 520.7 to 611.5 thousand tonnes. All States recorded an increase in crushing this year.

The South Australian crush increased by 16.3 per cent to 314.2 thousand tonnes. Within that State, the largest increase was in the Riverland Statistical Subdivision (31.7%).

South Australia's share of the Australian crush was 51.4 per cent, while New South Wales share was 31.5 per cent.

Total beverage wine produced in Australia increased by 14.8 per cent from 345.8 to 397.2 million litres. Distillation wine production increased by 13.5 per cent from 54.1 to 61.3 million litres. Unfortified wine production increased by 16.7 per cent in 1991-92 to 364.2 million litres, compared with 1990-91. Fortified wine production decreased by 2.4 per cent to 33.0 million litres in the same period.

Source: *Wine Production, Australia and States, 1991-92 (8366.0)*.

Continued ...

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

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- ☐ PO BOX 10
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- ☎ (06) 252 6627
- FAX (06) 253 1404

ABS State Offices

- ☎ NSW (02) 268 4611
- Vic. (03) 615 7000
- Qld (07) 222 6351
- WA (09) 323 5140
- SA (08) 237 7100
- Tas. (002) 20 5800
- NT (089) 432 111

☐ Personal finance

Personal finance commitments for September 1992 totalled \$1,878.7 million, an increase of \$281.8 million (17.6%) over the revised August 1992 figure of \$1,596.9 million and an increase of \$263.3 million (16.3%) over September 1991.

All categories of lender recorded increases in September 1992 with the largest being in banks, up \$193.3 million.

It should be noted, however, that September 1992 was a five week reporting period for some banks whereas August 1992 and September 1991 were four week reporting periods.

Both components of personal finance contributed to the increase with commitments under fixed loans increasing by \$181.8 million (17.8%) and revolving credit by \$100.1 million (17.4%).

Source: *Personal Finance, Australia, September 1992* (5642.0).

All the week's releases: 11 to 17 November

General

Publications Issued in October 1992 (1102.0; \$6.00)

Publications Advice, 13 November 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)

Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., November 1992 (1304.0; \$20.00)

Statistics Weekly, 12 November 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)

Tasmanian Year Book, 1992 (1301.6; \$31.00)

Census of Population and Housing

1991 Census-Local Government Areas, Tas., 6 August 1991 (2790.6; \$15.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Construction Industry — Details of Expense Items, 1988-89 (5238.0; \$10.00) — *new issue*

Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Imports, September 1992 (5433.0; \$9.50)

Personal Finance, Aust., September 1992 (5642.0; \$6.00)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., October 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)

The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, October 1992 (6271.0; \$65.00)

Average Weekly Earnings, Aust., August Qtr 1992, Preliminary (6301.0; \$10.50)

Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities, September Qtr 1992 (6403.0; \$6.00)

Export Price Index, Aust., September 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)

Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, September 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)

Women and Work, Victoria, October 1991 (6205.2; \$10.00) — *new issue*

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Wine Production, Aust. and States, 1991-92 (8366.0; \$10.50)

Building Approvals — Private Sector, Perth Statistical Division, October 1992 (8732.5; \$5.00)

Subscriptions

To subscribe to *Statistics Weekly* or any other ABS printed publication, phone the ABS Subscription Service toll-free on (008) 020608, or contact Information Services at any of the offices listed at left.

Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Rad Leovic
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 1 December 1992

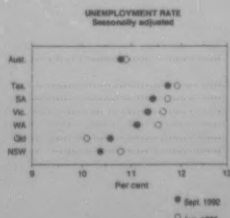
November

- 18** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, September 1992 (\$609.0; \$10.50)
- 20** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, September 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)
- 24** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, September 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)
Import Price Index, Australia, September 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)
- 25** Manufacturing Production, Australia, October 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)
- 26** Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure, September Quarter 1992, Preliminary (5625.0; \$10.50)
Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales and Expected Sales, Australia, September Quarter 1992 (5629.0; \$10.50)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, October 1992, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)
- 27** Balance of Payments, Australia, September Quarter 1992 (5302.0; \$21.00)
Company Profits, Australia, September Quarter 1992 (5651.0; \$10.50)
- 30** Balance of Payments, Australia, October 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to

17 November 1992



	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92)*	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (Sept. 92) (trend estimate)	2.5	2.0	6.9	-2.9	6.8	5.4	n.a.	4.6	3.3
New motor vehicle registrations (Sept. 92)†	2.6	7.7	22.6	8.4	28.4	12.9	42.3	-14.9	9.7
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Sept. 92)*	6.4	11.9	10.6	9.8	19.9	12.3	-20.1	121.5	9.5
Value of total building work done (June qtr 92)	-18.2	-7.1	6.2	-12.9	-5.8	19.5	-10.3	3.9	-8.8
Employed persons (Oct. 92)*	0.1	-1.6	3.0	1.3	1.5	-1.0	1.8	4.4	0.5
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 92)	0.8	0.3	0.8	1.9	-0.2	0.8	1.9	1.5	0.8
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 92)	7.5	3.3	1.6	6.0	3.7	4.3	6.3	6.3	4.7
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (June qtr 92)	6.9	4.8	6.4	2.9	3.1	0.7	3.8	21.2	5.9

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 17 November 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year	
National production							
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	June qtr 92	n.a.	65,000	0.6	1.6	
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	June qtr 92	5,749	5,511	0.7	-15.4	
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	4,604	4,407	2.0	-12.0	
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Six months to Dec. 92	12,157	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
Retail turnover — current prices	"	Sept. 92	7,748	7,937	0.0	4.1	
— 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 92	15,153	15,673	-0.3	1.7	
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	Sept. 92	47,643	43,648	-3.8	9.7	
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Sept. 92	14,249	13,220	-1.2	9.5	
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	1,910	1,835	3.0	7.3	
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	June qtr 92	5,778.2	5,795.0	-0.4	-8.8	
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,754.4	3,765.4	-0.3	-6.8	
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	June qtr 92	35,443	35,599	1.1	3.8	
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	24,478	24,601	1.2	3.1	
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to Dec. 92	73,674	n.a.	n.a.	2.3	
Labour							
Employed persons	'000	Oct. 92	7,723.9	7,713.5	0.3	0.5	
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.5	11.3	0.5	1.1	
Participation rate †	"	"	62.7	63.2	0.5	0.1	
Job vacancies	'000	Aug. 92	28.0	27.5	10.9	9.6	
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.07	1.11	0.9	0.0	
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1989-90 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 92	107.4	n.a.	0.1	0.8	
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	Aug. 92	127.1	n.a.	0.7	6.0	
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	Aug. 92	113.6	n.a.	0.4	2.2	
Company profits before income tax	\$m	June qtr 92	3,133	3,426	-4.6	45.0	
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	Aug. 92	\$8*70	n.a.	-0.3	3.2	
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Sept. 92	5.95	n.a.	0.05	0.4	
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	8.95	n.a.	0.0	-1.35	
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Sept. 92	5,170	5,222	11.2	15.8	
Imports of merchandise	"	"	-5,281	-5,249	20.2	22.4	
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-111	-27	n.a.	n.a.	
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-548	-316	n.a.	n.a.	
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,718	-1,512	61.5	15.7	
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	June qtr 92	n.a.	99.0	-1.2	-1.0	
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6	
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9	
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
US\$	per \$A	Sept. 92	0.7225	n.a.	-0.5	-8.9	
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	52.7	n.a.	0.8	-14.8	
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Mar. 92	17.5	n.a.	0.4	1.4	
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Aug. 92	199	212	-5.0	2.0	

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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